Mallapally bridge.

384. *MR. K. A. MATHEW (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state why the construction of Mallapally bridge and Kollakadavu bridge was not begun during the year?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The construction of the Mallapally bridge was not started this year as the site for the bridge had to be finally settled after local inspection. The estimate and design are now under preparation.

The detailed design for a bridge at Kollakadavu with bow-string girder in R. C. C. instead of timber deckings is under preparation.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the member whether he is aware that the site was settled by the Chief Engineer even before the budget session last year?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: A site had to be chosen. There was one site fixed before the Chief Engineer who has just resigned took charge. Later on he had to go and inspect the place and he fixed another site. After that estimates have been prepared by the Division Officer and they are being scrutinised now in the Chief Engineer's Office.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But the answer given is that the site has not been finally settled but it was after finally settling the site that provision was made in the budget.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It is stated in the answer that the work was not started this year as the site had to be settled after local inspection. Local inspection has been conducted and the site and the design have been more or less settled; the estimates have been prepared and the estimates together with the plans are being scrutinised in the Chief Engineer's office.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But the site was there long before it was budgeted last year.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The other preliminaries, the plans and estimates have had to be prepared. They have already been prepared and now they are being scrutinised.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: So that the other part of the answer is irrelevant.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It only explains.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnathoor*): In regard to the Kollakadavu bridge, in what stage is the work now?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It is under investigation.

PRESIDENT: Question 385.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: On a point of elucidation, Sir. Now it has become the practice of the Government benches not to give satisfactory answers.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: With regard to question 384, I had,,

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PRESIDENT: Order, order. What is the question to which the honourable member is referring?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: 384.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The honourable member did not catch my eye when I passed over from 384 to 385. If the honourable member had any question to put he should have been vigilant and should have caught the President's eye. If he does not, then it is not my fault.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: But I have no control over the President, Sir. *(Laughter.)*

PRESIDENT: Order, order. That is one of the drawbacks of having a 'President' and the President having or not having an eye. As a matter of fact, if the honourable member reads the chronicle of the Parliament he will see that there was a complaint on one occasion—it was at the time of Disraeli—that there was one back bencher who said that he had risen at least on one thousand occasions to speak and on none of those one thousand occasions could he catch the Speaker's eye. The answer was "I have a seeing eye as well as a blind eye." That was the answer of the Speaker. I do not think that I am turning a blind eye on Mr. Chellappan Pillai. From his interventions in the debate he will see that the President's eye is favourably, rather than blindly, turned towards him. There is no particular reason for that. If at any time the honourable member has a quarrel with the way in which questions are answered he may mention it and I will deal with the matter. But if he had risen and had caught my eye when 384 was on the tapis I should have allowed him. But now that we are on 385 he cannot go back to 384.

Munnar town.

385. ✻ MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that Munnar town which is one of the best health resorts and sanatoria in South India is within the area occupied by the K. D. H. P. Co., Ltd., and that the public who want to make use of this health resort have to experience several difficulties like want of buildings, etc.?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what steps Government are proposing to take to acquire the Munnar town which in fact belongs to Travancoreans?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The K. D. H. P. Company, was about 50 or 60 years ago given concessions which practically make it the owner of a large part of the Travancore State. And they have, as owners, every right to deal with their property. Government have come to the conclusion that it is essentially for Government to acquire control over the company and the locality where it functions. Government have made it clear to the organisation that that is their policy. Government have also issued instructions that as many shares of the company—the shares are held in England as possible should be purchased. Government are still purchasing

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